



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of August 26, 2009

2:00 p.m., Greensboro, NC

Plaza Level Conference Room

Melvin Municipal Office Building

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Robbie Perkins	<i>TAC Chair</i>	Doug Galyon	<i>NC Board of Transportation Member</i>
T. Dianne Bellamy-Small	<i>Greensboro City Council Member</i>		
Mike Winstead	<i>Guilford County Commissioner</i>		

ATTENDANCE

Tyler Meyer	<i>GDOT / TCC Chair</i>
Adam Fischer	<i>GDOT Acting Director</i>
Craig McKinney	<i>GDOT / MPO</i>
Mark Brown	<i>Mayor of Summerfield</i>
Lydia McIntyre	<i>GDOT / MPO</i>
Terry Lee	<i>Southeast Land Co., LLC</i>
Taft Wireback	<i>News and Record</i>
Mike Mills	<i>NCDOT</i>
Mark Kirstner	<i>PART</i>

Robbie Perkins called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

Action Items

1. Approve Minutes of June 24, 2009

T. Dianne Bellamy-Small moved for approval of the minutes. Mike Winstead seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2009 meeting.

2. Reports, Concerns, and Discussion from MPO Area Towns

None

Planning for the transportation future

LEAD PLANNING AGENCY: CITY OF GREENSBORO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P.O. BOX 3136 GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27402-3136 · 336 373-4368 · fax 336 412-6171 · www.guampo.org

3. Citizen Comments

Terry Lee from Southeast Land Company, developer of Quail Oak subdivision, described his concerns and requested help to accelerate right-of-way acquisition for properties being impacted by the Urban Loop. He noted that the right-of-way acquisition had been shifted back to 2012, and stated that numerous homeowners are unable to sell their homes and feel stuck. He also stated Keystone has shut down their sales effort because of the loop. Mr. Lee asked TAC to assist in seeking accelerated right-of-way acquisition.

Mike Mills told Mr. Lee that the Urban Loop design plans are still being evaluated to determine if a design change to reduce property impacts will be feasible. Currently 17 or 18 homes are being impacted.

Robbie Perkins inquired if Mr. Lee or Keystone had made a hardship request to NCDOT. Hardship requests are a method of seeking early right of way acquisition. Mr. Lee said he had not done so yet.

Mike Mills noted the NCDOT is currently re-evaluating the priority of urban loops statewide. The Department has temporarily suspended new loop work until this is complete. Doug Galyon noted the result will be a new schedule of work for Urban Loops statewide. Until this is finalized the timing of right of way acquisition on the Northern Urban Loop will not be known. This uncertainty could affect the consideration of any hardship requests at this time.

Perkins suggested writing a letter to NCDOT to request hardship acquisition. Mr. Mills noted the Department would continue in the mean time to review a potential design change. Mr. Lee stated that GDOT and NCDOT have been very professional in assisting him. Mr. Lee noted that because the issues have been raised, homeowners are now concerned. He thanked everyone for their help and he will send a letter requesting hardship acquisition.

Business Items / Potential Action Items

I. NCDOT Five Year Work Plan & Five Year Let List

Tyler Meyer explained NCDOT's new 5 Year Work Plan and its relationship to Departmental management and the TIP. The Work Plan is a new budgetary and management approach, bringing together operations and maintenance costs with TIP funding for roadways, public transportation and other modal programs Department-wide. Based on relatively conservative fiscal assumptions and updated each year with the State Budget, the plan is intended to provide a management scenario that the Department can place a high confidence in its ability to implement. NCDOT currently expects releasing the Draft Work Plan for review at the September Board of Transportation meeting.

The Work Plan includes a new Five Year Let List, a committed schedule of roadway construction projects. Based on conservative financial assumptions, the Department intends to achieve a 90% or better success rate in delivering projects within each five year period. The Department reports accountability measures will be put in place to seek to increase the likelihood of meeting this goal. The new Five Year Let List has already been released.

At this time, Urban Loops are not included in the Five Year Let List. The Department is currently re-evaluating status, funding, and priority across the entire loop system statewide, and expects to be able to incorporate the results into the Five Year Let List by Spring 2010. The proposed method for evaluating the loops will be presented to the Board of Transportation in September.

It is also important to note that the Five Year Let List does not include right of way information. Therefore, it does not provide a full picture of the longer term project delivery outlook for the area.

Staff has distributed a summary of Five Year Let List projects in the Greensboro area. Highlights include:

- Bridford Parkway is not on the list because it is already under contract.
- The High Point Road and Hornaday Road projects continue to be on schedule.
- The NC 68/ US 220 Connector and the US 421 Interchange at Woody Mill Road were delayed, but are still funded.
- The High Point Road project from US 311 Bypass to Vickery Chapel Road (High Point MPO) and the US 421 Interchange at Neelley Road are now unfunded.
- The US 29 at Reedy Fork Interchange remains unfunded at this time.
- The only section of the Greensboro Loop that was previously funded, the Eastern Loop between US 70 and US 29 is not included. Its future status and schedule will not be known until the results of the Loop evaluation are released in 2010.

Doug Galyon stated that he felt it was crucial for the City and State to approve agreements regarding right-of-way purchase for the Northern Urban Loop. He stated that as the Department evaluates Loop priorities statewide, such an arrangement would bolster the case for an accelerated Greensboro Urban Loop delivery schedule.

Galyon noted the Board of Transportation will be evaluating the loops and if there is assurance that the right-of-way will be purchased, it may help push the loop forward. Specifically the section from Bryan Boulevard to Lawndale. May not make this 5 year list, but certainly could make the next one.

Mike Mills stated a draft agreement has been prepared but is currently at the Attorney General's office over questions regarding the proposed pay-back mechanisms. The agreement has not been sent to the City pending resolution of those issues.

Adam Fischer noted internal city discussions concerning cash flow and potential impacts on the City's ability to deliver its transportation bond projects on schedule. He stated an effort was being made to structure the agreement such that repayment provisions would enable the City to conduct advance right of way acquisitions without impacting City bond project delivery schedules.

Robbie Perkins noted he and Mayor Johnson were favorable to such an arrangement given the strategic importance of this facility to the City.

2. New NCDOT TIP Process

Tyler Meyer noted the new Five Year Work Plan & Five Year Let List are part of a broader process change in the way that the NCDOT develops and administers the Transportation Improvement Program and attendant project implementation efforts. He then explained the new TIP process in general terms.

The NCDOT is adopting a new method of project selection. The Five Year Let List is the starting point; the first five years of the highway element of the TIP will be based on the Let List. The Department will add additional projects to years six through ten of the TIP based on a process described below.

The new Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) will feed additional roadway projects into the TIP process. The Department's modal divisions will evaluate needs for their respective modes. This is partly because of the differences in funding streams, regulatory process, and delivery methods, but is also because methods of prioritizing needs for the various modes will vary based on the characteristics of that mode.

For roadways, SPOT will conduct a technical analysis of project need. Three variables will be used: current congestion (mobility), and safety & condition (infrastructure health). These variables will be applied at three levels: statewide, regional, and subregional.

SPOT will also factor in priority rankings from the MPOs and the Highway Divisions. Each MPO and Division have been asked to submit up to 25 ranked priorities. It has been made clear that there is no need to rank 5 year let list projects because they are already committed for delivery. Also, there is no need to rank Urban Loops because they are under a needs-based evaluation and are fundamentally different from other projects due to: 1) the dedicated funding stream; 2) the severe shortage of funding relative to available projects, and 3) the statewide re-evaluation of priority.

At the conclusion of its review, SPOT will prepare a report on needs, possible investment scenarios, and recommendations for consideration in development of the TIP.

3. MPO TIP and Project Prioritization Process

Tyler Meyer noted that due to the technical nature of SPOT evaluation MPO staff is conducting a technical evaluation that can systematically evaluate the roadway projects but can also provide additional targeted information about project need that would otherwise be overlooked in the SPOT process.

The MPO Ranking Process currently under development includes the following variables: need criteria: impact on future roadway system performance; congestion reduction; safety problems; feasibility criteria: impact on natural environment; project, status, funding eligibility, multimodal features, availability of local funding, and land use.

Meyer noted that the roadway projects identified at this point for evaluation are presented as handouts, both in the form of a list as well as project specific information sheets. Development of the list was based on a review of the Five Year Let List, unfunded projects, and LRTP recommendations. He asked that the committee let the staff know if anything was missed. The proposed list of projects for the Developmental List does not include projects like the I-73 / I-74 Connector because of the long term construction timeframe. He also noted the loops have been included in the list for comparison purposes only and emphasized they will be evaluated separately. He noted the intention to complete the evaluation and summary before discussion at the September MPO meetings.

T. Dianne Bellamy-Small noted the list includes mostly major thoroughfare projects and inquired about making improvements in older neighborhoods for sidewalks. For example Summit Avenue, Lowdermilk Street or Holts Chapel Road.

Fischer and Meyer noted that the projects could be considered in the future thorough the NCDOT or city bond processes.

Meyer reported that NCDOT currently does not have a performance assessment tool in place for transit, bicycles, or pedestrians. The MPO will submit projects for these modes and the NCDOT modal divisions will evaluate. Also the STP DA and CMAQ programs provide the MPO more flexibility in addressing such needs.

Adam Fischer inquired if projects that had slipped from funded to unfunded also be evaluating on the MPO project list.

Tyler Meyer responded yes and that the Neelley Road Interchange at US 421 is a good example.

4. TIP Schedule and Next Steps

Meyer noted MPO staff is currently working on evaluating and ranking proposed roadway projects for the SPOT process. Work is also underway on a more traditional MPO Priority Needs List. This list is still needed

to convey multi-modal, urban loop, bicycle and pedestrian, and more general roadway priorities in a clear, simple, and effective way. The current version 2011-2017 Priority Needs List, adopted in 2008 is a handout at this meeting. of the adopted list that had been distributed and reviewed the status of projects.

Tyler Meyer summarized the TIP process timeline as follows:

- MPO SPOT rankings 9-09
- MPO Priority Needs List 10-09
- SPOT prepares list of statewide priority needs 1/09
- NCDOT prepares funding availability estimates and considers different funding scenarios
- Release of "SPAN" report 5/09
- Consultation with MPOs & Public involvement
- Draft STIP - 9/10 & Draft MTIP - 10/10
- AQ & Public involvement -Late 2010 – Spring 2011)
- MTIP & STIP adoption Summer 2011

Over the next month staff will also evaluate projects to apply CMAQ and STP-DA funding.

MPO staff will present in September the ranked project list based on the MPO evaluation for the Developmental List. A listing of transit, pedestrian, and bicycle needs will also be presented along with STP-DA and CMAQ opportunities.

MPO staff anticipates completing the priority needs and approving STP-DA and CMAQ projects in October.

Bellamy-Small inquired if the MPO staff goes back and check which TIP projects have been completed. Meyer noted that staff does review such projects and had included those recently completed in the summary comparison handout.

Robbie Perkins noted that the process is a dramatically new way of doing business. Doug Galyon observed that the presentation was extremely clear and very well done. He noted this is a complicated subject and one that is difficult to present clearly and succinctly in a way that is easy to understand.

5. Transportation Project Update

Meyer reviewed the current status of several projects. The Battleground Rail Trail is currently under construction and will be done this fall. Construction is starting on the underpass at Cone Boulevard.

GTA's site for the new facility is currently being graded. Fischer noted the contractors are ahead of schedule for grading. Design is being finished for the building. The project will go out for bid by end of September and construction will take 18 months. Expect the new facility to open in spring of 2011.

The Latham Park Greenway is also being resurfaced and widened from Wendover Avenue to Elm Street as part of an important Downtown Greenway connector.

Bellamy-Small noted the phase 1 of the Downtown Greenway looks really good and if asked staff to share pictures at the next meeting.

Upcoming projects include the stimulus projects. The street resurfacing municipal agreement has been approved. The City is still waiting to get approval for Lake Jeanette and Elm Street agreements.

The first STP DA funded sidewalk contract is well underway. Two more contracts have approval pending.

The City has been working on planning study for Downtown Greenway along Murrow Boulevard. The first public meeting was anticipated on September 10th. Staff will provide more information in the future.

6. MPO Strategic Topics

House Bill 148 enacted for intermodal transit a ½ sales tax option for Guilford and Forsyth Counties as well as the Triangle and Union County in Charlotte. Other counties have a ¼ cent transit sales tax option. To be implemented in the Triad and/or Guilford County, the tax would have to be implemented through PART, would have to be based on a plan considering transit needs across the region including local transit needs, and would require voter approval following approval by each affected Board of County Commissioners.

Fischer noted GDOT held the first public meeting for High Point-Lee Street Corridor streetscape project in August. The meeting was well attended. \$7.5 million from the 2008 bond is currently slated for use on the first phase of the project from I-40 to Coliseum Boulevard. It is estimated that improvements for I-40 to Eugene Street (Phase I and Phase II) would total \$15 million.

Perkins inquired if the High Point Road improvements could be done by the time the swimming center opens in February 2011. Fischer noted that would be a very tight timeframe particularly with utilities and acquiring right-of-way. Improvements would include rebuilding intersections, decorative mast arms, wider sidewalks, and streetscape along the corridor.

Meyer noted the MPO will meet in September and October.

Meyer noted the web-based Urban Loop Locator GIS tool is still on the City website front page. Staff is working to get additional projects built into the GIS tool. The site counted 2000 hits on day the tool went live. Currently there are 200 hits on average per day. McKinney hopes to add US 220 widening, NC 68/ US 220 Connector, Bridford Parkway and Hornaday Road in the near future.

Mills noted NCDOT Project list included as handout. The list includes stimulus projects at the end. On September 14th NCDOT will be holding an Informational Meeting from 2:30 to 4:30 and from 4:30 to 7:30 for US 220 widening project (R-2309) at the Summerfield Community Center. NCDOT also expects to hold a US 220/ NC 68 Connector meeting in October. A meeting on the Urban Loop will also be held in late Fall or early Winter.

Bellamy-Small noted public meetings for LDO are occurring. The next one is on September 3rd at Barber Park.

Other Items

1. Board Member Report

None

2. Regional Transportation News

Mike Mills thanked Adam Fischer and City of Greensboro for assisting with redirecting motorists during the Wyndam Golf Tournament.

Kirstner noted PART started a service July 6th with a route to the Asheboro Zoo. PART has started an Accident and Safety Awareness Program. Kirstner also passed out the PART Newsletter.

3. Wrap-Up

Robbie Perkins adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm